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EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231  
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Paper No.

## Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121)

The amendment filed on 9-18-03 is considered non-compliant because it has failed to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121(b). In order for the amendment to be compliant, applicant must supply the following omissions or corrections in response to this notice.

- ☒ 1. Newly added claims should be underlined.
- ☐ 2. A marked-up version of the replacement paragraph(s)/section(s) is required. See 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1)(iii).
- ☐ 3. A clean version of the amended claim(s) is required. See 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i).
- ☐ 4. A marked-up version of the amended claim(s) is required. See 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

✓ Explanation: - See attachment.

- ☐ **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT:** Unless applicant **supplies the omission or correction** to the preliminary amendment in compliance with revised 37 CFR 1.121 noted above within ONE MONTH of the mail date of this letter, examination on the merits may commence without entry of the originally proposed preliminary amendment. This notice is not an action under 35 U.S.C. 132, and this ONE MONTH time limit is not extendable.
- ☒ **AMENDMENT AFTER NON-FINAL ACTION:** Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to **supply the omission or correction noted above** in order to **avoid abandonment**. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Teresa Woodhuff  
Legal Instruments Examiner (LIE)

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the aeration chamber which creates main currents 108, 110, and 112 that sweep across the bottom in all directions. The water sweeping generally in a straight line across the bottom of the vessel in direction 108 moves with the greatest speed and serves to move any solid falling out of the clarifier chamber back into circulation in the aeration chamber, thus preventing any accumulation of solids in the bottom of the aeration chamber. The water moving generally around the outer perimeter of the vessel in directions 110 and 112 moves at a slower speed but with enough speed to scour the edges of the vessel and to sweep the solids into circulation. All areas of the bottom of the vessel are forced into circulation. Those areas intermediate between the path straight across the bottom of the vessel and the path around the outer perimeter travel respectively intermediate speeds. While FIG. 1 shows the entire circulation pattern, FIG. 5-7 show different views of parts of this pattern. As depicted in Figs. 1 and 6, the injection system generates an area of aerating bubbles adjacent the intersection of the side wall and the bottom wall that induces the current flow shown in Figs. 1 and 6. Thus, assuming that direction 100 in Fig. 1 depicts the current flow of the wastewater induced at an injection area adjacent the intersection of the side wall and the bottom wall of the aeration chamber, a branched current having runs indicated by 102 and 104 is produced. Accordingly, multiple diffuses could be positioned in

SHOULD  
BE  
UNDERLINED  
Per 37 CFR  
1.121(b)(1)